

Does God Understand My Loneliness? By Roy Goodlet

We have a community full of potentially lonely people. Some are divorced, the children of divorced parents, widows, widowers, those who have been abandoned by their families, the sick, and those who feel unpopular and different. I did not say they are lonely, but these unfortunate circumstances often lead to feeling lonely. Loneliness is a feeling that we want corrected in our lives. All of us need someone to love, someone to love us, or some wrong to be corrected that separates us from those we love. If we are lonely because we feel separated from someone, it could be the other person needs our help. Our loneliness may come from a sincere desire on our part to help them. Is there someone you want and need to help so much, but are shut out of their life? Could it be your husband, your wife, your parents or even your children?

Am I going to get around to answering the question behind today's sermon title? Answer this first. Can you understand the heart of God when there are so many times that God longs to help you with problems in your life, but you don't let Him? Can you understand how the heart of God breaks and feels lonely when you and I reject His willingness to intercede in our lives? Did Jesus ever experience loneliness? What about the time He decided to leave Heaven and come to earth? What about the time He was in the wilderness with Satan, or the time the people in His hometown were ready to stone Him? What about the time His brothers and sisters did not accept Him for who He was? There was the night of betrayal and the unjust trial, and when He was on the cross when no human could help, and God turned His back on Him. Love and loneliness were felt and expressed at Calvary. Jesus was saying, "I don't want to give up on you. I love you. I love you this much. Can't you see how much I love you? I am dying for you, so you won't have to. Won't you say you love me too?" How long has God been patient with you and me? How long should He plead for our love and intimacy? When will the certain day come when His love ceases to exist for you and me if we continue to say we don't want God's love? When will He no longer offer His love?

Many of you are feeling pain today, because you have family members who recognize your existence, but don't choose to love you. It hurts doesn't it? Well, it hurts God too. Is there any way you can force your love on those who do not want it? I wish I could say there was, but there isn't. And God will not force His love on anyone who does not want it.

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